



## French obstruents, SDA and Privative Features

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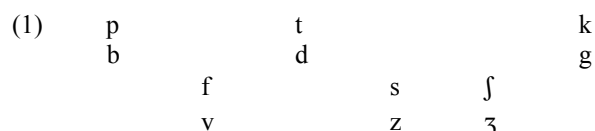
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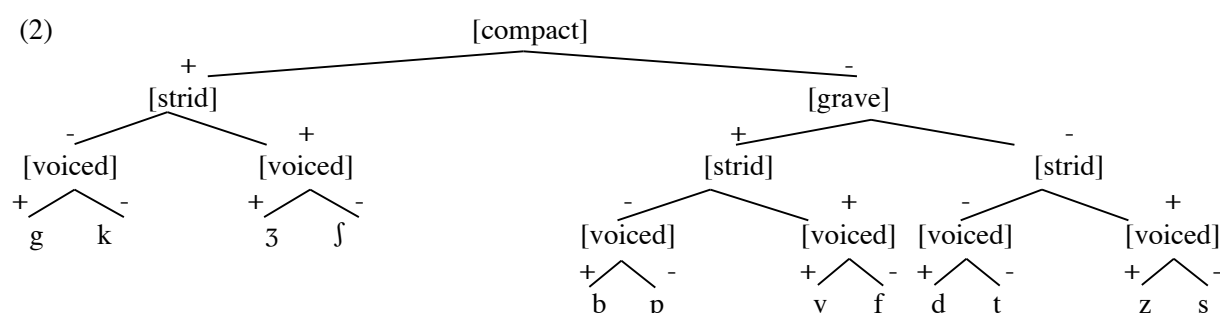
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**French obstruents, SDA and Privative Features**  
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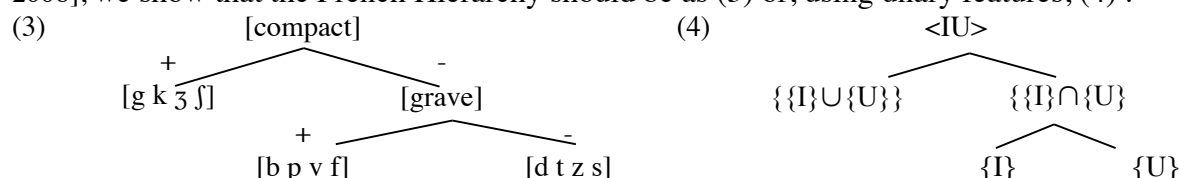
In a series of papers, Dresher [2007,2009] argues that TRUBETZKOY [1939] depiction of French obstruents system would be similar to MARTINET [1960] where feature hierarchy is based on a *Pairwise Algorithm*. Coupling this to MARTINET [1939, 1955]'s definition of *Economy* [CLEMENTS : 2003, 2006] leads to (1), where gaps explain diachronical change :



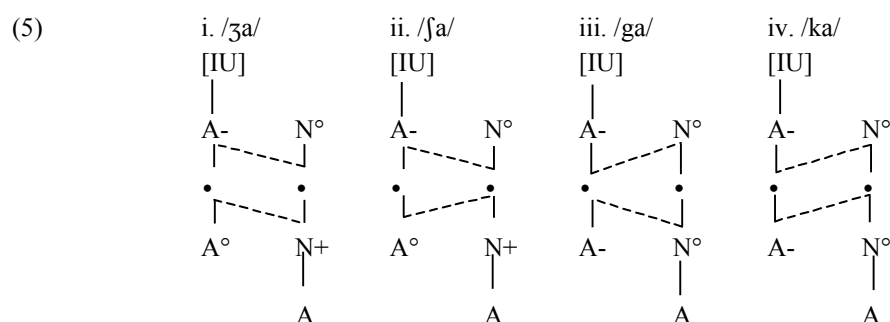
At the opposite, the *Successive Division Algorithm* (Halle [1959], HOCKETT [1955], JAKOBSON & al. [1951, 1956], JAKOBSON [1969], JAKOBSON & WAUGH [1979]), leads to (2), without gaps and where {[compact] >> [grave]} >> [strident] >> [voiced] :



We show that both (1, 2) miss the fact that laryngeal and manner features are by-products of syllable activity. Using privative features [KLV : 1985, 1990 ; Scheer : 1996] and an extended version of CV phonology [Lowenstamm :1996, Scheer : 2004, BRANDÃO : 2002, 2008], we show that the French Hierarchy should be as (3) or, using unary features, (4) :



Particularly, [compact] segments in (3) result from the configurations in (5), explaining the palatalisation of dorsals before /a/.



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